REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-18, which were all of the then pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,615,166 (Guheen, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,930,806 (Taira, et al.) The Examiner also objected to informalities in Claim 18. The previous rejection of Claims 1-17 as being fully anticipated by Guheen, et al. was withdrawn.

This opportunity is being taken to amend independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 to better define the subject matters of these claims. Claim 18 is being amended to take out limitations being added to Claim 1 and to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Claim 19, which is dependent from Claim 1, is being added to describe features of an embodiment of the invention.

Claim 18 is, as mentioned above, being amended to correct informalities noted by the Examiner. In particular, in lines 7 and 11 of Claim 18, the spelling of "manager" is being corrected. In light of these changes, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the objection to Claim 18.

For the reasons discussed below, Claims 1-19 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is thus asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 and to allow these claims and new Claim 19.

Generally, Claims 1-19 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable because the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the use of the plurality of databases, as described in independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 to manage and affect an enterprise-wide network migration from one network to another network.

In order to best understand these databases, the way in which they are used, and their significance, it may be helpful to review briefly the present invention and the prior art.

The present invention relates to an integrated set of tools and processes to manage an enterprise-wide technology migration. Many corporations and other enterprises have very extensive information technology or telecommunications systems or networks. From time to time, it is necessary or desirable to make extensive or fundamental changes in or to these networks or systems.

These migrations can be very difficult, complicated and expensive to manage. This is because of the large amount of equipments involved, the disparate nature of these pieces of equipment, and the complex relationships between the different pieces or types of equipment.

The present invention effectively addresses the challenge managing an enterprise-wide network migration. Generally, this is done by providing a configurable, integrated and end-to-end set of processes and corresponding electronic toolsuite to manage effectively large-scale enterprise wide information technology-related or telecommunications related migrations.

More specifically, the present invention, in one embodiment, provides a method of managing and affecting an enterprise-wide network migration from one type of network to another type of network. This method comprises the steps of creating instances of databases for an enterprise-wide migration from one type of network to another type of network. These databases include a migration manager database that includes a migration manager database and a billing and reporting database. The migration manager database includes one entry for each client, machine, and device being affected by the migration.

The method comprises the further steps of gathering information on the organization, location, hardware, and software affected by said migration into the migration manager database; and building an inventory of the affected hardware and software using an inventory tracking tool or an inventory mailer.

This method comprises the further steps of determining hardware that needs to be ordered for the migration using the migration manager database; and ordering hardware and software for the migration based on said planning and said inventory, using an inventory tool. The labor, hardware, and software as installed in the new network is tracked and billed, using the billing and reporting database. In addition, in this embodiment, agents for the above-mentioned creating, gathering, building and tracking are enabled using an agent control facility.

Guheen, et al, which is the primary reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims, discloses a procedure for conveying information regarding a web architecture framework and for demonstrating priority among components of the architecture. In this procedure, a plurality of components, required for implementation of a predetermined technology, are provided. Then, a priority listing of the components is compiled such that the relative position of the components on the priority listing corresponds to a temporal priority among the components. The existing network framework and the components are pictorially represented, and then components of the existing network framework are coded to indicate priority among the components. The components can then be installed in order of their coded priority.

Guheen, et al. is principally directed to displaying information in a concise and well-organized manner, and in particular, for generating such a display of a web architecture framework. Once the display is formed, the system components can be selected according to a defined priority (See column 1, lines 58-67; and column 7, lines 1-10).

There is a very important general difference between the present invention and the method and system disclosed in Guheen, et al. This difference is that Guheen, et al. is directed to implementing an existing network framework, while the present invention is directed to migrating from one network to another network.

As may be appreciated, an enterprise wide network migration can be more complex than simply designing or implementing a new network from scratch because, in the case of a migration, existing equipment has to be taken into account. The implementation of the network migration needs to consider whether the old equipment and software can be used in the new network, and if so, how that equipment and software can be used in the new network. The present invention effectively does this by using a series of databases.

In particular, one database, referred to as the migration manager database, keeps track of each client, machine, and device being affected by the migration. A second database, referred to as a billing and reporting database, is used to keep track of labor, hardware and software as installed in the new network.

Taira, et al. discloses a migration system to migrate data from a network data model, where records are interrelated by pointers, to a relational data model. The system described in Taira, et al. comprises a record migration unit, a primary key addition unit, a relation key addition unit, and a set sequence key addition unit. The record migration unit creates target records for the relational data

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model, which are arranged in the same way that source records are originally arranged in the network data model.

While Taira, et al, unlike Guheen, et al, discloses a migration system, the system described in Taira, et al. is used <u>only</u> to migrate data. In contrast, the present invention is used to migrate a complete network, including hardware and software. As will be appreciated, the present invention thus addresses, successfully, a more complex issue.

The independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are being amended to emphasize the fact that the present invention is a migration, rather than simply an implementation. For example, these claims are being amended to indicate expressly that hardware and software are ordered for the migration, and to indicate that labor, hardware and software as installed in the new network. These claims are also being amended to set forth positively the migration manager database that is used to keep track of various aspects of the migration.

The use of these databases is of substantial utility because, among other advantages, different databases may be used to keep track of different hardware and software from different employees having different needs.

The other reference of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or render obvious the use of the databases, as described in independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, to help manage an affect an enterprise-wide network migration from one network to another network.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 7 and 13 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, Claims 1, 7 and 13 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-6, 18 and 19 are dependent from Claim 1

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and are allowable therewith. Also, Claims 8-12 are dependent from Claim 7 and are allowable therewith; and claims 14-17 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 7. The Examiner is, thus, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow these claims and new Claim 19.

It is now believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, a notice of which is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examine is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Sensny
John S. Sensny
Registration No. 28,757
Attorney for Applicants

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza – Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

JSS:jy